

The United States Attorney's Office  
District of Minnesota  
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## United States Attorney's Office

District of Minnesota

Directions: The United States Courthouse is located on the corner of Fourth Street and Third Avenue South in downtown Minneapolis. A public parking ramp is available and accessible under the building from Third Avenue South.

## District of Minnesota

### History

The Office of the United States Attorney dates back to 1789, when Congress passed the Judiciary Act, which directed the President to appoint an attorney in each federal judicial district to represent the interests of the United States.

The President's nomination for United States Attorney must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He or she serves at the will of the President for a term of four years.

Each U.S. Attorney and all Assistant U.S. Attorneys must reside in the district they represent. They are paid salaries directed by law and are prohibited from engaging in the private practice of law while in office. These attorneys represent the government and may not give legal advice to individuals.

With few exceptions, litigation on behalf of the U.S. Justice Department is performed by the 93 United States Attorneys and their staffs.



Minneapolis United States Courthouse



Warren E. Burger Federal Building and  
United States Courthouse in St. Paul

### The Office

The District of Minnesota was established by Congress on March 17, 1849. Two days later, Henry L. Moss was appointed its first United States Attorney.

Presently, approximately 120 people, including more than 50 Assistant U.S. Attorneys, work in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Minnesota. The Office's headquarters is in the federal courthouse in Minneapolis, while a branch office is maintained in St. Paul.

The Office is divided into five divisions: a Criminal Division, a Civil Division, an Appellate Division, an Administrative Division, and a Community Relations Division.

Each year the Office also collects approximately two times the amount of its operating budget in fines and defaulted government loans. That money is deposited into the U.S. Treasury.

## Criminal Division

The Criminal Division serves as the prosecutorial arm of the U.S. Department of Justice in the District of Minnesota. It ensures that the investigative efforts of law enforcement agencies are pursued at the federal level.

The Criminal Division is divided into three sections:

- The Fraud and Public Corruption Section focuses on major mail, wire, and bank fraud cases as well as tax evasion, health care and mortgage fraud, investment scams, environmental crime, and public and private corruption cases.
- The Major Crimes and Priority Prosecutions Section handles terrorism cases, cybercrime, child exploitation, human trafficking, immigration violations, identity theft, bank robberies, federal program fraud, and federal crime in Indian Country.
- The OCDETF and Violent Crime Section concentrates on Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force cases as well as other drug, gang, and gun cases, particularly those involving major criminal organizations or repeat offenders.



## Civil Division

The Civil Division represents the United States in both affirmative and defensive civil actions in federal and State court. Affirmative litigation includes enforcing federal environmental, fair housing, and civil rights laws as well as suing corporations and individuals for civil fraud, including health care fraud, agricultural program fraud, and federal procurement fraud.

Defensive litigation includes Federal Tort Claims Act cases, employment discrimination lawsuits, immigration litigation, constitutional torts filed against federal officials, and defending challenges regarding the constitutionality of federal statutes.

The Civil Division also represents the interests of the United States in bankruptcy proceedings mortgage foreclosures, land condemnations, and commitment actions against mentally ill and dangerous federal inmates.

In addition, the Civil Division includes the Asset Forfeiture Unit, which works to forfeit property used in the commission of a crime or held by defendants as proceeds of criminal activity. The Civil Division is also home to the Financial Litigation Unit, which seeks collection of criminal fines and restitution, civil penalties, and defaulted government loans, including federally insured student loans for deposit into the U.S. Treasury.

## Appellate Division

The Appellate Division was created to monitor the work done by the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. Almost all guilty verdicts and many sentences from both trials and plea agreements are appealed to the circuit court.

Because comparatively few cases are heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, the Office's work in the Eighth Circuit is very important, as the Eighth Circuit decides the law for this district and districts in six other states as well.

Assistant U.S. Attorneys in the Appellate Division are responsible for reviewing all appellate court briefs, writing some briefs, and overseeing moot court, which prepares Assistant U.S. Attorneys for oral arguments before the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. The Appellate Division is also responsible for informing the lawyers in the Office of new developments in the law.

## Administrative Division

The Administrative Division supports the litigative mission of the Office by providing information technology, procurement, property, budget, human resource, facilities management, and general infrastructure services.

The objective of the Administrative Division is to deliver a full range of support services to the staff of the Office and its internal and external customers in an efficient, cost effective, timely, and customer-service-oriented manner that furthers the Office's strategic goals and objectives, meets audit and regulatory requirements, and supports a work environment that enables all employees to perform at the highest levels possible.

## Community Relations Division

The Community Relations Division ("CRD") handles community outreach, law enforcement training, victim and witness assistance, media relations, grant and program oversight, and special projects. These duties are met through an array of initiatives.

Project Safe Neighborhoods is one such program. It offers financial support and training to local, State, and federal law enforcement partners in an effort to curb gun violence. CRD also aids federal crime victims through joint efforts with State advocates and advocacy groups and agencies. Through CRD, media representatives are sent regular case-based press releases for use in informing the public of the Office's work on their behalf. Moreover, they,



along with the Office's law enforcement partners, receive periodic newsletters that examine law enforcement and crime prevention issues from a federal perspective. Each year partners are also sent an annual report, which summarizes the work done by the Office during the previous year and offers contact information and other forms of assistance.

While the primary role of the U.S. Attorney's Office is litigative, it also has an obligation to promote and assist in crime prevention. That work is done through the Community Relations Division.